

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the Official Action of December 14, 2005, relating to the above-identified application.

A new Abstract is presented herewith in the form of a single paragraph in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Official Action.

Headings have been inserted into the specification in accordance with the Examiner's request and, therefore, the objection to the specification has been overcome.

Also the patent number on page 1, line 10, has been corrected to refer to the PCT international application.

It is believed that with the foregoing amendment of the claims, the objections to the claim language has been overcome.

In view of the amendment to Claim 16, it is believed that the rejection of Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 has been overcome.

The rejection of Claims 1 to 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (first paragraph) as failing to comply with the enablement requirement is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested. The Official Action alleges that the azo compound of Claim 1 encompasses an infinite number of compounds.

In reply, applicants would point out that the application contains a very large number of examples of the types of azo compounds encompassed by the invention. For example, the various substituents of the azo compounds are disclosed and described beginning at the bottom of the page 3, at line 27, of the application. Further exemplification of azo compounds of the

formula 1 are set forth on pages 4 and 5. Specific examples are shown on page 6. It is true that the claim encompasses a large number of compounds, however, they are exemplified by representative compounds set forth in the application. Merely because the claim is broad, is not a reasonable basis for rejecting the claims as lacking enablement. The Official Action has not provided any reason why a person skilled in the art would not be able to make or use the compounds encompassed by Claim 1. Furthermore, attention is invited to new Claims 18 and 19 which provide further definitions of applicants' azo compounds which are clearly enabled by the application; see pages 3, 4 and 6.

In view thereof, it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (first paragraph) is not well founded and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 1 to 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (second paragraph) is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested. With respect to the matter of proper antecedent basis, applicants have revised the claims in order clarify and provide the proper basis for the terminology in the claims. It is, therefore, believed that the rejection should be withdrawn. With respect to the matter of the term "Ultra Turrax", this is a high-speed mixer well known in the carbon black industry.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is believed that all of the objections under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 have been addressed and, therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1 to 17 in view of the claims of applicants' related application, App. No. 10/812,835, is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested. The compounds

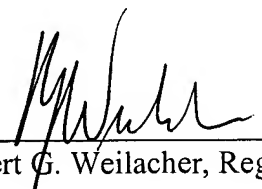
claimed in applicants' related application have an entirely different configuration as compared to the compounds of formula 1 of this application. A copy of the allowed claims in the related application, marked Exhibit A, is enclosed herewith for the convenience of the Examiner. It will immediately be seen that the configuration and structure of the azo compounds in applicants' related application is distinctly different from the compounds that are defined herein and, therefore, are not structurally obvious in view of the compounds shown in the related application. Consequently, withdrawal of the requirement for filing a terminal disclaimer is respectfully requested.

Favorable action at the earliest convenience of the Examiner is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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